REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-7, and 9-30 are pending in the application. Claims 2-3, and 8 were canceled by previous amendment. Claims 1, 9, 18, 21, and 23 are amended. New claim 30 is added.

Claim Objections

The Examiner indicated that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 1. New claim 30 includes the limitations of claims 1 and 6, and is therefore in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 8-10, 12, 16-19, 23-25, and 27-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,225,791 (Nau et al.). Applicants note that Claim 8 was canceled by previous amendment filed May 17, 2005.

Claims 1, 9, 18, 21, and 23 have been amended, essentially replacing the word "adjacent" with "adjoining." The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter these amendments and pass this case to allowance. In Nau et al., the inclined insulating plate 50 does not adjoin the aperture 48. For at least this reason, the amended claims (and their respective dependent claims) are believed to be patentable over Nau et al.

Regarding claim 10, it is believed to be patentable over Nau et al. for at least the additional reason that Nau et al. fails to disclose that the area between the wall portion and said wall structure defines a protected area in which **substantially no gas enters** during said electrical interruption event.

Regarding claim 12, it is believed to be patentable over Nau et al. for at least the additional reason that Nau et al. fails to disclose that said base further includes a floor, said opening of said vent chute being positioned a distance away from said floor, the arrangement further including **an approach ramp adjacent said opening**, said approach ramp having a surface leading away from said floor to direct said gas generally toward said opening and away from said floor.

Regarding claim 17, it is believed to be patentable over Nau et al. for at least the additional reason that Nau et al. fails to disclose that said wall structure directs debris caused by an explosion of said gas **generally away from said wall portion** and generally toward said

opening, said vent chute further directing at least some of said debris away from said circuit breaker during said electrical interruption event.

Regarding claim 19 as amended, it is believed to be patentable over Nau et al. for at least the additional reason that Nau et al. fails to disclose: said base further includes a floor, said opening of said vent chute being elevated relative to said floor, the circuit breaker further including **an approach ramp adjacent said vent chute opening**, said approach ramp having a surface angled from said floor to said vent chute opening to elevate said gas generally toward said vent chute opening.

Regarding claim 27, it is believed to be patentable over Nau et al. for at least the additional reason that Nau et al. fails to disclose that said structure is an approach ramp having a **cross section that is generally one of a triangle and a trapezoid**, said approach ramp elevating said gas toward said at least one opening during said electrical interruption event.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-5 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Nau et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,164,693 (Yokoyama et al.). Claims 21-22 were rejected over Nau et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,188,036 (Arnold).

Regarding claim 3, it was canceled by previous amendment filed on May 17, 2005.

Regarding claim 21, it has been amended and is believed to be allowable for at least the same reason that claims 1, 9, 18, 21, and 23 discussed above are allowable. The Office Action also asserts that "Nau et al. disclose everything the use of multiple vent chutes." Office Action at 3. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Neither Nau et al. nor Arnold teaches or suggests said first edge and said second edges being adjacent to said first and second vent chutes, respectively. There is only one aperture 48 shown in Nau et al. For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 21 is believed to be patentable over Nau et al in view of Arnold.

Regarding claim 4, neither Nau et al. nor Yokoyama et al. teaches or suggests wherein said trip unit includes **a trip unit base having a complementary structure, said complementary structure having an edge portion angled toward said at least one opening** such that said gas is directed along said angled edge portion of said structure and said angled edge portion of said complementary structure to said at least one opening during said electrical

interruption event. The Office Action cites column 9, lines 22-46 of Yokoyama as allegedly disclosing a trip unit having a complementary structure that has an edge portion angled toward said at least one opening such that gas is directed along the angled edge portion of the structure and complementary structure to at least one opening. Applicants respectfully submit that the arc runner 115 of Yokoyama does not teach or suggest the claimed complementary structure. Because neither Nau et al. nor Yokoyama et al. teaches or suggests the claimed complementary structure of claim 4, it is believed to be patentable thereover for at least this additional reason. Claim 14 is believed to be patentable for at least the same foregoing additional reason.

Regarding claim 5, neither Nau et al. nor Yokoyama et al. teaches or suggests the claimed structure and complementary structure being flush with one another. The horizontal rib 122 of Yokoyama et al. does not have an edge portion angled toward said at least one opening such that gas is directed along the angled portion of said structure and the angled portion of said complementary structure to said at least one opening. For at least this additional reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 5 is patentable over Nau et al. in view of Yokoyama et al. If the Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 4 and 5, would he kindly identify the alleged corresponding "complementary structure" in Yokoyama et al.?

Regarding claims 4-5 and 14-15, Applicants note that the complementary structure in the trip unit base is not a matter of mere design choice. Applicants' disclosure explains the significance of the complementary structure in the context of Applicants 'invention:

> FIG. 6 illustrates the trip unit base 130 assembled with the base 190 to form a cavity 140. The bottom of the trip unit base 130 includes a complementary redirection structure 132 that is positioned opposite the redirection wall structure 110. The complementary arrangement of structures 110, 132 substantially prevents any gas or debris from impacting the rear wall chamber 182. The area behind the structures 110, 132 and adjacent to the rear wall chamber 182 is a protected area in that substantially no gas or debris enters this area during an electrical interruption event.

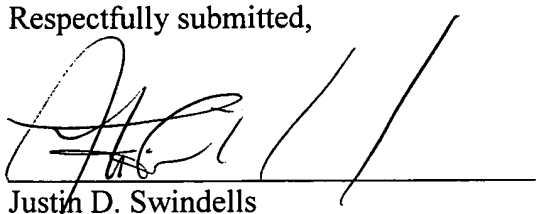
Applicants' Specification, ¶ 0027.

Conclusion

The Applicants submit that the claims are in a condition for allowance and action toward that end is earnestly solicited. A check in the amount of $200.00 is enclosed for addition of an independent claim. No other fees are believed to be due in connection with this response.

However, should any fees be required (except for payment of the issue fee), the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Jenkens & Gilchrist, P.C. Deposit Account No. 10-0447, Order No. CRC-167/47181-00289USPT.

Respectfully submitted,



October 7, 2005
Date

Justin D. Swindells
Reg. No. 48,733
JENKENS & GILCHRIST, P.C.
225 West Washington Street, Suite 2600
Chicago, IL 60606-3418
(312) 425-3900 – telephone
(312) 425-3909 - facsimile

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANTS